

REMARKS

Claims 11-19 are pending in this application, and claims 11-15, 18 and 19 are indicated as withdrawn based on a requirement by the Examiner.

I. Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, claims 11-19 are amended. Support for the amendments to claim 11 may be found at least on page 6, lines 10-11 and lines 28-29 of the specification. Claims 12-19 are amended to address informalities. Claim 18 is further amended to depend from claim 11 to emphasize that all of the features of claim 11 are incorporated into claim 18. No new matter is added by the above amendments.

II. Telephone Interview and Claim Identifiers

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Choi in the August 13, 2008 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Although the Examiner has not yet withdrawn any claims, at the Examiner's request during the August 13 telephone interview, any claims that the Examiner identified in the May 9, 2008 Restriction Requirement as not being encompassed by elected Group II are indicated as withdrawn in this Amendment.

III. Restriction Requirement

In reply to the May 9, 2008 Restriction Requirement, Applicants' provisionally elect Group II, claims 16 and 17, with traverse.

At least claims 11-15 are generic to Groups I and II, and as such, claims 11-15 should also be included with the elected claims. However, because the Examiner requested during the August 13 telephone interview that only the claims as identified by the Examiner as belonging to Group II can be elected, Applicants elect claims 16 and 17 to ensure this response is entered.

Furthermore, the Restriction Requirement is improper because there exists *a priori* unity of invention with respect to claims 11-19, by virtue of the fact that claims 12-19 depend from claim 11, as discussed above. As stated in Chapter 10.06 of the ISPE (*International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines*):

Unity of invention has to be considered in the first place only in relation to the independent claims in an international application and not the dependent claims. By “dependent” claim is meant a claim which contains all the features of one or more other claims and contains a reference, preferably at the beginning, to the other claim or claims and then states the additional features claimed (Rule 6.4).

Therefore, because claims 12-19 include all of the features of claim 11, all claims 12-19 share at least each element or technical feature of independent claim 11. ISPE 10.07 further provides:

If the independent claims avoid the prior art and satisfy the requirement of unity of invention, no problem of lack of unity arises in respect of any claims that depend on the independent claims. In particular, it does not matter if a dependent claim itself contains a further invention.

Claim 11, the only independent claim, is amended to recite knitted coarse mesh material including at least one of a natural fiber and a plastic fiber, which is not disclosed in any of the references of record. Thus, claim 11 avoids the prior art and satisfies the requirement of unity of invention.

Further, even if claim 11 did not avoid the prior art, Applicants submit that claim 11 is the only independent claim.

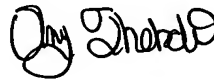
Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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